

### REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-15 currently stand rejected. Claims 7, 11, and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8, and 12 are amended to include the limitations of respective dependent claims 7, 11, and 16, and claims 7, 11, and 16 are canceled herein. Reconsideration of the Application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

### Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action of November 29, 2004, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-15 stand rejected. However, the Examiner also indicates that claims 7, 11, and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Because of the Applicant's wish to expedite the allowance and issuance of the present Application, the Applicant refrains from discussing the cited references, and instead, herein amends independent claims 1, 8, and 12 to include the limitations of respective allowable dependent claims 7, 11, and 16, to thereby place claims 1, 8, and 12 in condition for immediate allowance. Applicant cancels claims 7, 11, and 16 without prejudice. The remaining dependent claims depend from the allowable independent claims and are

allowable for at least the same reasons.

The Applicant expressly states that the foregoing amendments and cancellations are not made for reasons of patentability. The claims are amended and cancelled solely to expedite the allowance and issuance of the Application. Furthermore, the Applicant reserves the right to seek allowance of any additional claims in Applications that may claim priority in the present Application.

### Summary

The Applicant submits that the foregoing amendments and remarks place the Application in condition for immediate allowance. Because the cited references, or the Examiner's citations thereto, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and in light of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art, Applicant therefore submits that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully requests the Examiner to allow claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-15, so that the present Application may issue in a timely manner. If there are any questions concerning this amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/15/05

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